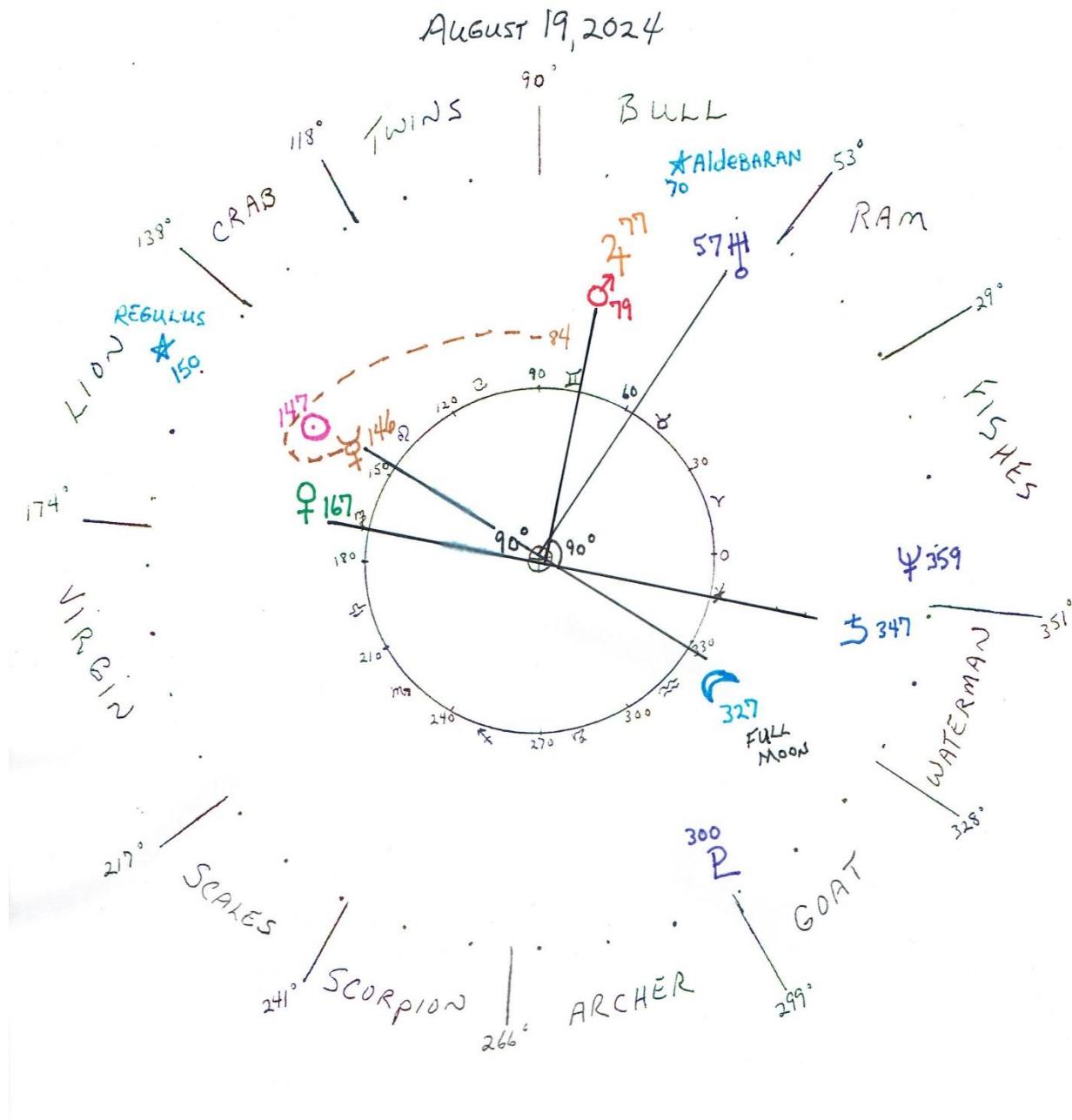


The Great Square of Saturn and Jupiter 2020 Unfolding



On August 19th every planet except Pluto and Neptune will be engaged in volatile and combative T-square formations. It is as if the entire realm of planetary intelligences is engaged in working through conflict and opposition, at right angles to each other. Central to this configuration is the Great Square of Saturn and Jupiter, which is, one could say, the first significant unfolding point in the 20-year biography of the Great Conjunction of Solstice/Christmas, 2020. This Square will extend through August. Also,

since these planets will be in retrograde movement over the year, (Saturn is currently retrograde), this square aspect will repeat two more times over the coming year: on Christmas Eve, 2024 and on June 15th, 2025. Thus, the Great Square expression will engage with humanity for the next year. The Great Opposition (5 times between Dec 2029-Oct 2031) and the concluding Great Square (2035) are the other biographical moments of interest before the next Great Conjunction of 2040. Currently nearly all the planets seem to be involved in conflict or confrontational relationships which says something about this biographical moment in the life of the central impulse or theme inaugurated at Christmas, 2020. To go into depth on all these relationships would involve a small book, but I will attempt to give some primary indications on them and how we might meet them.

When one strives to understand the stars as an expression of the language of the cosmic intelligences, it is important to attempt to bring our consciousness into movement to experience the gestures and formations over time which can become a kind of living tableau or imagination that can reveal itself. Also, central to a new astrosophy is the awareness of our modern relation to the stars, as given by Rudolf Steiner in the verse of December 25, 1922 (paraphrased): Stars once spoke to humanity...but they are silent now. Yet in the silence, their grows what humans speak to the stars. To become aware of this "speaking" will lead us forward towards the becoming of Spirit Man. So, what does it mean that the stars are now silent? How then can we "hear" their speech? The point here is not that the stars do not speak, but that they do not speak to *humanity* in our current consciousness when we have separated off from the divine spiritual and descended into independence and brain-bound thinking. We cannot hear their language now. It is no longer appropriate that we be guided by forces outside us, but learn out of our own striving for spiritual cognition to raise our consciousness to them again so that we can join freely with them in serving the higher divine plan of evolution and the task of becoming truly human. In this way we join the dialogue and bring something to the stars out of our humanity. We speak to and with them. This is the task of a new astrosophy.

Secondly, we must understand that these star configurations, if not taken up consciously out of spiritual knowledge, will serve our lower impulses. For example, which we will explore in this configuration, Mars can work aggressively in warlike confrontation serving egotistical powers or it can become a warrior for truth with the courage to serve the evolutionary beings. Saturn can seem a harsh karmic judge strictly applying old forms of the past or it can awaken us to the great plan of evolution and our responsibility to accept the consequences of our past in order to bring healing for the future. This is where we can become free to speak to the stars. So, let us not ask what the stars are "doing" to us, but rather, how are we seeking to serve the higher calling of the stars in service of humanity.

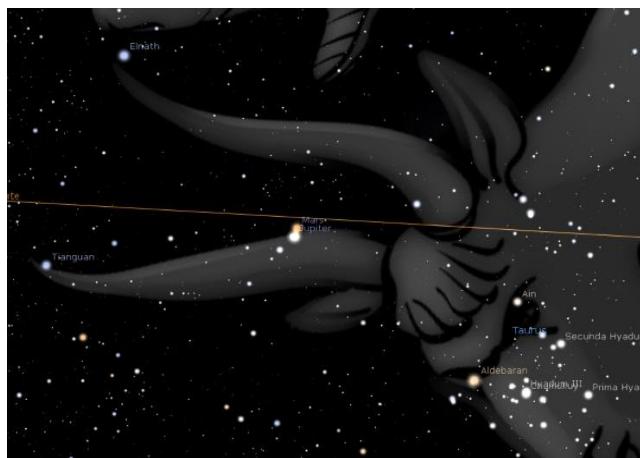
To now begin to understand the T-squares of challenges and conflict in this time, we need to look back to Christmas, 2020 and the Great Conjunction as the origin of the current stage in its biography. It is like a great plan or idea is begun and as it unfolds, one encounters the issues causing problems which need to be resolved and worked through to move forward. One could say that the first Great Square after a Great Conjunction will always express a kind of first crisis of progress in the unfolding of the impulse of the conjunction. I have written several articles about this Great Conjunction from a few perspectives – in relation to covid 19 during that time, in relation to the planet Pluto, in relation to Mars, and particularly in relation to its archetype found in the Christ events. In a new astrosophy, we must recognize the pivotal event of the Incarnation of the Logos and the events during and around that Incarnation as the founding of the new meaning in our relationship to the stars. These articles can all be found on my website under Current Articles if you scroll back into 2020/2021.

So, I will only briefly recap to set the context and meaning of this current Great Square. These conjunctions of Saturn and Jupiter inaugurate a world karmic theme for 20 years until the next Great Conjunction which then inaugurates a different theme. When these planets meet, a kind of conference, so to speak, takes place between these two spheres of planetary leadership. It is as if they confer together about how the past and the great plan of evolution are unfolding and expanding properly into the future. Saturn remembers and ensures that world karma is in alignment with the great plan as laid down by the Father and that the consequences of deviation from, as well as following, the plan will be fulfilled. Jupiter envisions and expands the plan into the future, infusing the great wisdom, vision, and ideals of the sphere of beings, the Spirits of Wisdom, the Cosmic Thought realm as Rudolf Steiner described Jupiter. They meet in different zodiacal regions which then give the deeper evolutionary context for this conference.

In 2020, both Jupiter and Saturn passed together through the stars of the Archer meeting (significantly) with Pluto, before just stepping over into the stars of Capricorn near Pluto for their Great Conjunction. This meeting with Pluto played an important role in the theme of this conjunction as a kind of earthquake or revolution that would shatter and destroy all old forms of the past creating the empty place with the potential, only the potential, for the truly new to be born. It is somewhat like the Phoenix imagination. But what would humanity bring to fill that void out of the ashes of the past? Jupiter and Saturn then met with their great question for humanity. Will you create the new forms for existence out of the true meaning of the human being? Will the expansion into the future be built on the foundations of the original divine plan for humanity? It is the question of "identity," the need to find our true identity as spiritual beings, not as machines, or computers, or animals...but as spirit beings. The Christic ancestor and archetype of this Great Conjunction is the Star of the Magi, that great Anunciation of the new being born into Earth. Since then, this hereditary line always calls for a new annunciation into the world. The star of Grace. In 2020 after traveling together through the Archer, and meeting Pluto, the conjunction took place just in the stars of Capricorn.

The constellation of the Capricorn (the Fish/Goat) is the constellation of "initiation," of a breakthrough to the divine, (It can also reflect a kind of rigidity towards change.) which necessarily means a catharsis, the painful process of transformation and birthing of the new. So, the theme and impulse for this conjunction is the world catharsis that will (hopefully) lead to our initiation or enlightenment as to our true spiritual nature as humans. It will unfold over the next twenty years and we can follow this unfolding with the aspect relationships of these two planets, particularly the two squares and the opposition. Yet this birthing will face many challenges as there exist those forces which do not want this breakthrough to take place.

Now we can look at the chart of August 19th as a moment in the unfolding of this Great Square as part of two T-Squares. See the chart image at the start of this article. We can start with what I think is most significant in this chart: the T-square focal line formed with Jupiter and Mars in Taurus. Though one could look further back over the past month, for now I will start with the Perseid meteor shower during these days, which peaked on August 12th and relates us to this line. The meteors radiate out from the constellation Perseus as a proclamation, a beckoning from Micha-el, the great Spirit of our Time, calling us to war against the forces of materialism and the dragon which would drag us down into separation from our divine heritage. Perseus stands above the constellation of the Bull. In the horns of the Bull, we see Mars and Jupiter in conjunction, exactly on August 14th. Mars will appear almost to merge with Jupiter, passing only .31 degrees above Jupiter. They rise in the east after midnight, so you can see them almost touching - the bright white Jupiter joined by the smaller reddish Mars. In the images below, you can see Perseus above Taurus and the very close joining of Mars and Jupiter in the Bull's horns.



Here we have a powerful imagination in itself: Mars and Jupiter meeting in the horns of the Bull, below Perseus, with the meteor showers of cosmic iron raining down upon them. But it is also in Great Square to Saturn. The Jupiter beings are presenting their part of this great evolution of the conversation about how this 2020 theme is progressing. How can we rise to an understanding of this cosmic conversation? One simple statement might be: Take up the warrior courage of Mars and the iron sword of Miche-al to

bring a new thinking, a new vision for the future, the true ideals of our humanity, into embodiment in earthly deeds through the power of the Logos/Word! Mars is especially connected to speech in its relation to the larynx and the chakra in that region, which is developed through the 8-Fold path of Buddha. The relationship to the Buddha and the healing of the Mars sphere is a topic beyond the scope here. Taurus is also connected to speech, but on a higher zodiacal level, with the Word, the Logos becoming flesh - the divine coming into matter. But since the Christ event, we have the new task of Taurus: the flesh becoming Word, the earthly transformed by the power of the Logos. I find the New Testament verses from Ephesians 6:10-17 an expression of this configuration. This can become our ideal with this Mars/Jupiter relation in Taurus. However, as stated earlier, Mars untransformed can also serve the power of materialism and the egoistic impulses of the earthly self, so that with its warlike element it can oppose or block the ideals and wisdom of Jupiter. Mars has been that sphere that has helped to lead us to independence and separation through the development of earthbound consciousness. This task is now past its appropriate purpose and works as a hindrance if not transformed. Mars can become not about "I" but about "Me!".

Let us move on to the other features of this August 19th configuration starting first with Saturn, the other main protagonist in this Great Square. It is now in the stars of Aquarius, the Water-Bearer, towards the end of Aquarius, near the transition into Pisces. It will cross into Pisces stars in March, 2025. It is approaching a conjunction with Neptune which will be exact next July, 2025 in Pisces. The outer planets, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto meetings with Jupiter and Saturn are another area of important exploration in our times, but not for this article. We have already explored this in the meetings of Saturn and Jupiter with Pluto in 2020. So, Saturn stands now receiving the forces of Aquarius, which carries the living cosmic water of life and holds, in expectation, the impulses which will emerge in the 6th Cultural Age.

We have what might seem a contradiction here. Saturn, which holds all the memory of the past, is now passing through the constellation which holds the image of the future for humanity. Yet Saturn also carries the entirety of the original divine plan for humanity. The question of Saturn here is one which asks, how can we transform the forms of the past, the consequences of world karma, into the future conditions for the next age? It reminds us of where we have come from and the law of past humanity karma which must be taken up and transformed in order to move into the future. In the question of this Great Square we can see the Martian-square challenges, the working out the rough edges, to move forward with the annunciation impulse of the 2020 Great Conjunction. Mars can also work as an obstacle, in which the materialistic thinking bound to the senses can block the Jupiter impulse towards the new thinking of the future. Also the old forms of the past can frustrate the instreaming impulses of the future Aquarian age seeking to awaken already as seed forces in our times. Whether the materialistic world view and the forms of the past block the new awakening for the future...or whether the forces of Mars can be used as the courage and will of Micha-el to inspire a reckoning with our past karma...this is the challenge of spirit knowledge in our time and in this configuration. How will it play out in earthly affairs? I think we can witness it all round now with the clear polarization of that which wants to hold on to old hierarchical forms of domination from the past and that which wants to move into a future of a shared humanity. Perhaps even a chant very common at some political rallies, "We're not going back!" is a speaking to some deeper underlying impulse.

But now let us add one more element to this T-Square since its formation includes another line, the opposition of Venus to Saturn. As you can see in the chart image, it is not only a square on August 19th, but directly across from Saturn is Venus in the Lion, the constellation connected to the heart and the planet related to our feeling realm and to the religious impulse in us. Also, though they are not in direct opposition, both Sun and Mercury are also in the stars of the Lion. In fact, Mercury met Regulus, the star which is the heart of the Lion, on August 18th and the Sun will meet Regulus on the 23rd. So, we have another picture. The inner transformative planets, which humanity can work with as tools for the transformation of feeling and thinking, along with the Sun, the symbol of the "I AM," all "happen" to be in the stars of Leo, the cosmic heart at this time. Venus is in direct opposition to Saturn and square to Mars and Jupiter. Oppositions can indicate a kind of tension but call for a coming into balance. The starry picture here points to the need to reconcile and bring into balance the middle realm of the heart forces and the weight of our world karma and the tasks ahead to work through to the potentiality of the Micha-elic Mars and Jupiter conjunction in the Bull. Venus in the Lion also has its shadow nature. Ideally Venus is the sphere of harmonizing and healing. In astroosophy, it represents the striving to bring the new Christian mysteries of the I AM to move beyond the religions of the past. However, Venus is also the star of Lucifer which can become self-centered or narcissistic, seduced by the false light of Lucifer, through feeling fueled by an ecstatic element or a more personal element. All that glitters is not gold. So, in this configuration, if you can hold the large imagination here, is a complex and powerful T-square engaging not only the great spheres of Saturn and Jupiter as the task of the Great Conjunction unfolds, but also bringing in the challenges of harmonizing and balancing the oppositional elements of Venus and Mars in this task.

This challenge with Venus in Lion is also seen in the second T-square in this chart of August 19th. Sun and Mercury are conjunct in the Lion opposite the Moon, the lunar forces, in a T with Uranus in the Bull. Here we have the challenge of reconciling the opposition between the clarity of intelligence and communication (Mercury) and wakefulness of the "I" (Sun) with the lunar forces of the subconscious realm. In fact, this happens during the Full Moon of August 19th. This challenge has its focal point in Uranus, which as a modern outer planet can become either a Luciferic spirituality serving only the egoistic in humanity or if taken up consciously can become the power of true Imagination leading to the

awakening of Spirit Self. This brings us to the work of Capricorn as mentioned in relation to the Great Conjunction...the cathartic work of transformation of the lower nature to achieve initiation.

So, in this T-square we also have great challenges to take up the forces of the heart (Leo/Regulus) out of the Sun relation to the solar "I" and the activity of cosmic intelligence (Mercury/Michael) to work with the lunar forces in the untransformed lower consciousness as a path to a realization of the spirit self.

As a final note on this chart, Pluto has come into the same degree in which the Great Conjunction took place in December, 2020. It now remembers this event and its role to address the deepest challenges of our humanity in relation to the ego. In the empty place of the heart, we must, out of our own forces, break through to a realization of the true I AM in us, to the spiritual nature of the ego based in the heart. The opposition to this, as expressed through Pluto, is the annihilation of the ego, which is the emerging activity of the Asuras in our time and is connected with the sphere of Pluto.

Probably a book could be written on this chart of August 19th. It is difficult to bring down in to graspable concepts the living imaginations in their complexity in this chart. But my intention is to point to the direction in which this Great Square is expressing the evolution, the first challenges, in the ongoing working through of the impulse laid down in the Great Conjunction of 2020. Over all one can say that the square aspect in the biography of this conjunction is the first expression of what the challenges are in its realization. Here we can see on many levels the cosmic picture of what must be undertaken in our world catharsis to bring into humanity consciousness the knowledge of the true nature of the human being. This humanity catharsis will continue for many years, as is reflected in the timeline of Jupiter and Saturn in this progression. Purification is not an overnight process! Yet, it is a configuration of great hope and confidence if we can rise to the challenges. Wakefulness, clarity, a new thinking based in spirit cognition and the enlivening of the "middle" heart forces in us can be our goal. I will close with the verses from Ephesians, which I think are appropriate particularly to this configuration but also in general for the approaching Micha-el season.

Put on the full armour of God that you may resist the well-aimed attacks of the Adversary. For our part is not to fight against powers of flesh and blood, but against spirit beings mighty in the stream of time, against spirit beings powerful in the moulding of earth's substance, against the cosmic powers whose darkness rules the present time, against evil beings who, in the spiritual worlds, are themselves the powers of evil.

Therefore, courageously take up the armour of God, that you can resist the evil on the day when it unfolds its greatest strength. You should stand firm, following everything through to the very end.

Stand upright, girded about the loins with truth.

Put on the breastplate of the higher life which fulfils our human destiny.

Shoe your feet with preparedness to spread the message of peace that comes from the angels. In all your deeds continually hold to your hearts' vision of Christ's presence, with which you can quench all the flaming darts of the evil ones.

Take into your thoughts the certainty of the coming world-healing, that it protect you as with a helmet, and grasp the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God which you utter.